

Small Group Discussion Questions Laurens County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- After school Programs- CHAMPS, Champions, LINKS, Montessori
- Growth in upper Laurens Co.
- Implementing EEDA
- Piedmont TEL- articulation agreements
- Balanced literacy L55/ Rdg. First 56
- Passage of \$48 M Bond Ref.
- First Steps Involvement
- Parenting Programs
- Intervention Programs
- CHAMPS
- Twilight school
- Virtual school (middle and high school)
- Family literacy programs (life long learning)
- SREB / EEBA Involvement (clusters, pathways, etc.)
- Chamber of commerce endorsement and support as #1 community issue
- Made efforts dual enrollment AP classes
- Collaboration from PC with student teachers
- New schools in district 55 and 56.
- First Steps- Every child ready for school.
- MAP Testing
- Increased efforts for parent involvement
- LCHCS Outreach
- Imagination Library
- High school transition to higher ed. to careers
- Dedicated educators
- Ninth grade academy
- Career clusters
- Job shadowing
- Literacy coaches
- Career specialists
- Credit recovery
- Virtual school
- GED programs with childcare available
- Parenting program for students
- Straight street
- Faith community

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Births to people under 21
- Poor housing –Rental property
- Unemployment
- APATHY
- Political Arenas
- Funding Mandates with little or no money
- Financial resources from state and local agencies/ sources
- Population (large percentage) has a lack of appreciation or importance for education and educational issues
- Lack of ability to communicate with percentage of the community.
- Addressing and “real” impacts on teen pregnancy.
- Increase or lack of parental involvement.
- Mandates (legislature)
- Definition of Success
- Teacher pay/ shortage
- Apathy
- Poverty
- Loss of industry
- Loss of community schools
- Language as a barrier
- Culture as a barrier
- Growing poor population
- Availability of childcare
- Teacher recruitment/retention
- Teacher/pupil ratio
- Generational poverty
- literacy

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Increase literacy
- Economic growth
- Parental involvement beyond discipline conferences
- Increase community awareness/involvement in educational arenas
- Non-traditional learning
- Increase volunteers into the classrooms
- Increase parental involvement / parent mentor program
- School/ community focus weaved in all aspects of life.
- Increase push for GED for parents.
- Positive promotion and community push for public education.
- Collaboration of community services or resources
- More group discussion in the community
- Equip teachers

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

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